



Quality Council
Tuesday, February 22, 2005
4:00-5:30 p.m.
Conference Room 6A, Exchange Building
821 Second Avenue, Seattle WA 98104

Members Attending:

Kali Henderson, Steve Collins, Alberto Gallegos, Eleanor Owen, Alice Howell, Howard Miller

Staff Present:

Liz Gilbert
Melisande Noe

Guest:

Dave Murphy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

III. PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES APPROVAL

Minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. OVERVIEW OF KING COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE: -Dave Murphy, CJI Coordinator

The CJI is a coordinated program wherein mentally ill and/or chemically dependent offenders can receive enhanced services through the specialty courts, the Community Center for Alternative Programs (CCAP), and in outpatient settings that include treatment, housing, and assistance with applying for publicly funded benefits. This project ensures that “persons who are significantly impaired by substance abuse, mental illness or both and involved repeatedly or for significant duration in the criminal justice system receive a continuum of treatment services that is coordinated, efficient and effective, and that reduces their rate of re-offense and jail time.”

The Quality Council has been receiving monthly electronic newsletters from Dave, and the March packet included preliminary findings from the program evaluation. Members expressed interest in this program and appreciation to Dave for responding to questions and providing additional details on program operations.

A motion to request the MHAB Board president to send a letter to Amnon Shoenfeld actively supporting the CJI program was passed unanimously.

V. PURGING CRIMINAL RECORDS – STEVEN COLLINS, KING COUNTY RSN QRT

This program helps clients whose criminal records are a present obstacle to obtaining housing and employment. A client can apply for a vacation, which is a legal process where the person petitions the court to remove her or his criminal record. Vacating a criminal record enables convicted persons to withdraw their guilty plea or jury verdict, have a plea of “not guilty” entered, and have the case dismissed. This process results in criminal record databases being court ordered to delete those portions of criminal conviction histories that are accessible by the public and prospective employers. It also allows persons to lawfully state on applications and to prospective employers that they have never been convicted of a crime. Lawyer’s fees for vacation are \$500 for the background work, plus an additional \$500 for a court appearance. Steve Collins and Mike Elsner both serve on a committee that is developing a plan to have the vacations done by attorneys from the Office of Public Defense. QC members were in favor of the program and offered its support.

VI. QUALITY COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Postponed until next meeting.